- Department of Environment and Forests has issued instructions to all their Wild Life Wardens to keep a watch on death of migratory birds in identified water bodies. Any unusual death among migratory birds would immediately be brought to the notice of Dept. of Animal Husbandry.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is regularly reviewing the situation. A National Consultation Meeting on Pandemic Preparedness was held 1st August, 2005 with all stakeholders to finalize pandemic preparedness and Response Plan.
- A contingency plan for managing human cases of avian influenza has been finalized detailing immediate action to be taken to deal with any suspected outbreak. The state level action plan has been discussed with the State Govts.
- The components of the action plan such as hospital strengthening, Influenza Surveillance Network, Laboratory strengthening in term of bio-safety labs, personal protective equipments, stockpiling of drugs and Information Education Communication are being taken up in a phased manner.
- An Inter Ministerial Task Force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (H&FW) to ensure availability of drugs, vaccines and all other aspects for management of Avian influenza in the country.
- National Institute of Communizable Diseases has been identified as the nodal agency for monitoring Avian Influenza and for investigating outbreaks. Under the aegis of ICMR, an Human Influenza surveillance network has been operationalized.
- The situation has also been reviewed by Committee of Secretaries on a monthly basis and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Arthritis in Children

†1156. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three lakhs children in the age group of one to sixteen years are affected from Arthritis in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have enough resources for the treatment of this disease;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of affected children is increasing continuously;

(d) if so, whether Government are taking any special measures to check this disease; and

(e) the details of action plan adopted/being adopted for the prevention of the said disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is no community based survey available in published literature from India about the incidence (New cases per year) and prevalence (Total number of cases) of arthritis in children.

(b) The treatment of Arthritis include: early diagnosis, medical treatment, physiotherapy and social support for the child and family. The medicines commonly used for treatment of Arthritis are available in open markets; physiotherapy departments are available in Medical Colleges and big hospitals for treatment of Arthritis. There are separate Paediatric Rhematology services available only in few tertiary care hospitals.

(c) ICMR has reported that in the absence of community based surveys no data on affected children is available. However, Safdarjung Hospital has reported that incidence of Arthritis cases has gone down.

(d) and (e) Since the cause of chronic arthritis in children is not exactly known, it is difficult to prepare an action plan for prevention. However, an early diagnosis and appropriate management may prevent/decrease the disability resulting from the illness.

Small family norms

1157. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no uniform policy in the country regarding encouraging people to adopt small family norms;

(b) whether Government are aware that in China the slogan to control population is "HUM DO HUMARE EK" unlike Indian's slogan "HUM DO HUMARE DO";

(c) if so, whether Government proposed to enact any legislation to adopt uniform policy to control population explosion; if so, the details thereof; and